

REFERENCE DATA CODING IN SOLID STATE IMAGE SENSORS

Abstract of the Disclosure

Data is encoded in a solid state image sensor that includes a sensor pixel array by varying the color processing applied to at least some of the border pixels of the sensor pixel array. Data may be encoded in the color processing by varying the pattern of a color filter mosaic and by varying a pattern of a microlens array in accordance with a predetermined scheme. This scheme includes omission of color filter material and omission of the microlens array from selected pixels. The data, typically encoded in a binary format, is read by illuminating the sensor pixel array and by processing the output signals from the border pixels. The encoded data may include color process codes, mask revision codes and product codes.

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